CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for reducing an unwanted T cell response in a host, comprising culturing peripheral blood monocytes from said host to differentiate into dendritic cells, activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone and loading said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T cell response is to be reduced.

2. A pharmaceutical composition for reducing an unwanted T cell response in a host, said composition being obtained by culturing peripheral blood monocytes from said host to differentiate into dendritic cells, activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone and loading said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T cell response is to be reduced.

3. A method for reducing an unwanted T cell response in a host, comprising administering a composition of claim 2 to said host.

4. A method for reducing an unwanted T cell response in a host comprising culturing peripheral blood monocytes from said host to differentiate into dendritic cells, activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone and loading said dendritic cells with an antigen against which said T cell response is to be reduced and administering said composition to said host.

5. A method according to claim 1,3 or 4 whereby said activation is done through a CD40 receptor.

6. A method according to claim 5 whereby said activation involves incubation of the dendritic cells with either CD8-CD40L fusion protein, a trimeric from of CD40L consisting of CD40L-molecules to which a modified leucine zipper has been attached, anti-CD40 antibodies, or cells that express CD40L.

7. A method according to claim 5 whereby said activation involves incubation of the dendritic cells with lipopolysaccharide (LPS) or polyI/C.

8. A method according to claim 1, 3-7 whereby said dendritic cells are infected with one or more recombinant viruses encoding the antigen(s) of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone.

9. A method according to claim 1, 3-8 whereby said dendritic cells are incubated with one or more recombinant proteins or large (> 20 amino acids) synthetic peptides representing the antigen(s) of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone.

10. A method according to claim 1,3 or 9 whereby said dendritic cells are incubated with cells or cell homogenate containing the antigen(s) of interest before activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone.

11. A method according to claim 1, 3-10 whereby said dendritic cells are loaded with synthetic peptides representing the antigen(s) of interest after activating said dendritic cells in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone.

12. A method according to claim 1, 3-11 whereby said dendritic cells, after activation in the presence of a glucocorticoid hormone, secrete interleukin-10.

13. A method for obtaining a dendritic cell capable of tolerising a T-cell for an antigen comprising providing said dendritic cell with a glucocorticoid hormone, activating said dendritic cell and providing said dendritic cell with said antigen.

14. A method according to anyone of claims 1, 3-13, wherein said dendritic cell and/or a precursor thereof is provided with said glucocorticoid hormone in vitro.

15. A method according to anyone of claims 1, 3-14, wherein said T-cell is a T-helper cell.

16. An isolated dendritic cell prepared according to anyone of claims 1, 3-15 capable of functionally modifying an antigen-specific T-cell with respect to the response to said antigen.

17. A method for functionally modifying an antigen-specific T-cell comprising providing an dendritic cell according to claim 16 with said antigen and co-cultivating said T-cell and said dendritic cell.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein said co-cultivating is performed in vitro.

19. A method according to claim 17 or claim 18, further comprising multiplying said functionally modified T-cell.

20. An isolated functionally modified T-cell obtainable by a method according to anyone of claims 17-19 that is capable, upon administration to the host, of reducing an unwanted immune response.

21. Use of a glucocorticoid hormone for obtaining an dendritic cell capable of functionally modifying a T-cell.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an dendritic cell according to claim 16 and/or a functionally modified T-cell according to claim 20.

23. Use of an dendritic cell according to claim 16 and/or a functionally modified T-cell according to claim 20 for the preparation of a medicament.

24. A method for the treatment of an individual suffering from or at risk of suffering from a disease associated with at least part of the immune system of said individual comprising providing said individual with an dendritic cell according to claim 16 and/or a functionally modified T-cell according to claim 20.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein said dendritic cell and or said T-cell is derived from an HLA-matched donor.

26. A method according to claim 24 or claim 25, wherein said dendritic cell and or said T-cell is derived from said individual.

27. Use of an dendritic cell according to claim 16 in a treatment for an individual suffering from an auto-immune disease, allergy, a graft versus host disease and/or a host versus graft disease.